UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/645
31 May 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

FINAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS MILITARY LIAISON TEAM IN CAMBODIA

1. The United Nations Military Liaison Team in Cambodia was established on 15 November 1993 for a single period of six months, pursuant to Security Council resolution 880 (1993) of 4 November 1993. The mandate formally expired and the Team ceased operations on 15 May 1994. It will be recalled that, in February 1994, a mid-term report was issued (S/1994/169), which described the activities of the Military Liaison Team and the prevailing security situation in Cambodia for the first half of the mandate period. The purpose of the present report is to give an overview of the activities of the Military Liaison Team during its entire period of operation, while highlighting major developments affecting the security situation in Cambodia during the second half of the reporting period.

2. The Military Liaison Team continued to maintain its base at Phnom Penh and, in accordance with its mandate, its functions continued to centre around liaison and reporting activities. Liaison was conducted at the ministerial, executive and ambassadorial levels by the Chief Military Liaison Officer and at the functional level by Military Liaison Officers, who reported daily to United Nations Headquarters on security conditions and developments in Cambodia. Officers were also dispatched in mobile teams to observe areas outside Phnom Penh when requested by the Government of Cambodia and when the Chief Military Liaison Officer deemed that the issue involved related to the mandate of the Team. During the course of the reporting period, observation missions were undertaken to Pailin, to camps for defectors from the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) at Russei Keo and Dei-eth, to a naval base at Ream, to the Officer Training Academy of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) in Kompong Speu province, to the Military Police Training School at Phnom Penh and to a reorganized RCAF infantry division at Lung Vek, north of Phnom Penh.

3. During the reporting period RCAF and NADK continued to fight in the north and north-western parts of the country. RCAF conducted a number of attacks on NADK strongholds at Anlong Veng and Pailin, temporarily capturing both and reportedly causing some 30,000 refugees to cross the border into Thailand. The security situation was reported to have deteriorated extensively, particularly in the provinces of Battambang and Banteay Meanchey.

4. The restructuring of RCAF into 12 divisions was reportedly completed and the areas of responsibilities of the Military Zones were reoriented. The hierarchical structure of the Ministry of Defence and the General Staff Branch of RCAF was also reappraised. The amalgamation of all previous factional forces into RCAF at all levels of command was reportedly effected smoothly, although the distribution of various command, staff and other key appointments may have been determined through ratio proportion among various military factions, with the majority going to the Cambodian People's Party. There appeared to be a conscious effort to conceal previous factional identities. Insufficient and inefficient administrative support, poor infrastructure and logistics and extensive minefields were reported to contribute to low morale in RCAF.

5. On 2 May 1994, the Government of Cambodia, through a letter from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia addressed to me, requested that the mandate of the Military Liaison Team be extended for a further six months. However, by a letter dated 13 May 1994 (S/1994/573), the President of the Security Council informed me that, in accordance with an alternative that I had proposed in a letter dated 6 May 1994 (S/1994/572), the Council had decided not to extend the mandate of the Team, but rather agreed that I should appoint three military advisers in the recently established office of my representative in Cambodia to assist him in fulfilling his mandate. Three military advisers, from Belgium, France and Malaysia, have accordingly been retained in Cambodia for this purpose, following the departure of the Military Liaison Team.

6. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Governments that contributed personnel to the Military Liaison Team. I also wish to pay tribute to the Chief Military Liaison Officer, the 19 Military Liaison Officers under his command and other staff serving with the Team for the manner in which they carried out their task. Their discipline and dedication were of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, their countries and the United Nations.